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12/29/93

Dear Gary,

That Alexander seems to be making such wonderful progress seems remarkable.

So also does it seem to be that with your busy professional lives you and Katherine somehow ~~to~~ seem to find time for normal personal lives. Not a mean accomplishment!

Both lives of both of you seem to be very rewarding. Congratulations! That really is an achievement!

With us it is as it is with those of our years. Medical problems. The local ophthalmologist has referred me to the chief of corneal surgery at Johns Hopkins for determination of whether to remove the cataract from my poorer eye. Means a balancing of risks. When he took the other one off I was hospitalized for five days for what is normally outpatient surgery. Over blood clotting problem. This time I suspect it is anticipated that if the cataract is not now removed I'll have no backup for the better eye.

Lil has just about decided to have her cataracts removed locally. One at a time.

She also has facial spasms that are quite annoying and interfere with her vision. When one of my Hopkins ophthalmologists heard about it he referred her to another on the staff of that hospital that is part of Hopkins, The Wilmer Eye Institute. He has been making experiment injections in the face that have been lasting for close to a year. She just had them again last week and the benefit is apparent!

We are fortunate that after the death of Lil's younger sister, who used to drive us to Hopkins, a cousin is now doing that. He takes the time when he is a partner with a brother in a successful auto dealership they inherited from their father.

I have had remarkable success in dealing with the combination of a prostate problem and sleep apnea. I'd been getting up too early and too wide awake to return to sleep. The apnea cannot be treated with either the medications, prohibited for me, or the minor ~~surgery~~ surgery, that two different hospitals decided against, again risk-balancing. One is Hopkins. I've tried just going to bed earlier and taking the diuretic before bedtime in the expectation that that problem would get me up less frequently. As a result I've found that I can still stay about 1 a.m. after a reasonable, for me anyway, amount of sleep. That means I have those very early hours entirely uninterrupted. And that has meant that in a relatively short time I was able to write two very large books, one more than 300,000 words, the other more than 200,000. Both are to be published commercially and both have been delayed without any legitimate reason at all. Dave Wyne regards them as my ~~yo~~ best and most important. One, on the Posner Case Closed fraud, could have been out by now. The earlier one, NEVER AGAIN! could have been out before Posner's. When I last heard it is now scheduled for the next anniversary, this coming September. Having no real choice I have accepted this deplorable situation. Each could have had a sensational confrontation,

and that is what sells book. For me the sales were not as important as the attention and the controversy that was possible, with its benefits in public education.

If I did not tell you, this past August local Hood College, an excellent small one, awarded Lil and me honorary doctorates in the humanities. I am particularly pleased that Lil was included because what I have done would not have been possible without her. It all was very nice. Some of our friends, including three professors, came as did some of our families. It was at convocation. All three ^{persons} said they had never seen it done or well. My sisters and their families were particularly gratified. The president even found time to spend with them. And because of the weather ^{they} had one of their security people with an air-conditioned security car for us whenever we were there. And it was hot!

What was particularly gratifying is that when we left the stage and were walking out, with the organ making it impossible to hear what people said, on both sides of the aisle as we walked past everyone looked at us and we could make out what they were saying with their lips only so far as we could tell, "thank you."

What is gratifying as well as surprising is that after the nasty and deceptive comments about me in several current books I've gotten only a little reaction and that little bit has all been of outrage. Not a single nasty letter or call over either.

We join you in your hopes for the coming year!

Our love,

Harold

THOUGHTS & MEMORIES OF 1993 FROM THE SCHOENER/GRAY FAMILY

Our family's most exciting event this year was Katherine's promotion from Vice President to Executive Vice President of Health Risk Management (HRM)--a challenging but rewarding job. Until Dec. 1992 Katherine had been a consultant to the firm on an 80% basis and had time to serve as President of Lake Harriet Montessori Preschool (Alex's preschool) as well as the Women's Health Fund, a foundation at the U. of Minnesota. As the year comes to an end HRM is doing well and its stock has increased substantially in price.

Alex began kindergarten at Jefferson Elementary School this Fall. Both he and we are thrilled with the school and his teacher Mrs. Altrawitz. He's made a number of friends and has gotten award for improving his skills with crayons. He still receives occupational and speech therapy and is continuing to improve his coordination and dexterity. In some areas he is doing very well and may be put ahead into "enrichment." His class is very culturally diverse and he's continuing his study of Spanish language. The school has a special relationship with the Walker Art Center, Guthrie Theater, and Woodlake Nature Center.

Gary takes him to school in the morning, and then he goes from morning kindergarten to a latchkey program called Minneapolis Kids with which we are also pleased. Mid-afternoon he is picked up by Carla Holmquist, his nanny, who's with him until dinner time. We decided to add a nanny to our family in January when it was clear that Alex was not getting the stimulation late in the day that we thought he should have and also to help get him to his therapies. This arrangement has worked very well.

Gary has continued to be busy, both as Executive Director of Walk-In Counseling Center and as a private consultant and expert witness. This year he ended up traveling a good deal for public speaking and presented workshops in four different Canadian provinces, literally going coast to coast. He's continued to do some TV appearances, although fewer than in the past as has papers coming out in a British book and New Zealand journal.

Jeff Gray, Katherine's father, ended up having cardiac bypass surgery during a visit in July which enabled us to have a much longer visit with the Grays than is usually possible. He's doing fine. Gary's dad, who had bypass surgery a while back, is still winning races in track events in the 75& over class. We will be spending Christmas week in Mexico with Gar & Doris Schoener, Gary's parents. This will be our only vacation this year, although we did get to Washington, D.C. in early December to visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum over a long weekend as a result of the support of the Joan & Sanford Alexander, friends of Gary's, and Chuck and Lavon Fisher (Alex's godmother) who took Alex for a weekend.

Sadly, the Grays lost two fine men--Uncles Roy and Ralph. We will miss them. They both contributed to our lives as well as to their communities.

P E A E

We had a visit from Lorraine Gray, at whose wedding Alex was a ring bearer last year. She was here on business. She and her husband Jeff Gray III live in Houston and are expecting a baby in January. Gary had visited them in early 1993 when he was in Houston to speak at a conference.

Another treat this year was the visit by Gary's sister and her family. Carol & Tom Climer and their children Laurie, Jonathan, and Emily came to visit during the summer and we all had fun at the zoo, Mall of America (Camp Snoopy rides were a hit), etc. We've talked about trying to get together next year at some place in between their home in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois and ours.

Alex's birthday, which is December 22, was celebrated this year on Saturday Dec. 18 so we could have a party on a weekend. Alex decided to invite a small group of children from his preschool and from his kindergarten. After last year's extravaganza in our home, we decided to hold it at the Fun Station, one of those indoor playgrounds for kids. It was a big success and a good deal easier on the adults.

Gary's clinic, the Walk-In Counseling Center, will be 25 years old during 1994. One of his longtime colleagues and friends, Jeanette Milgrom, celebrated her 20th year at WICC and we held a party in our home which was well attended.

Another landmark during 1993 was the beginning of Alex's godfather, Bill Howard's, career in cinema. He was the Executive Producer of the Minnesota-made film "Bound and Gagged: A Love Story." It was rejected by Hollywood, but they took it to the Cannes Festival and got distributors and so it opened to some good reviews in Minneapolis. Bill appears, along with his golf clubs, in one scene.

All in all it is hard to know where 1993 went. It was a hectic year and we didn't see as much of friends or family as we'd hoped. Business trips enabled us to see a few of our friends who live in distant cities, but not as many as we would have liked to see. We all hope to do a better job of balancing our time and activities during 1994.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & PRODUCTIVE 1994